The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Ex re Fabellas ——— *Garrit aniles* ——— Hor.

From *Tuesday December* 6. to *Thursday December* 8. 1709.

From my own Apartment, December 7.

MY Brother *Tranquillus* being gone out of Town for some Days, my Sister *Jenny* sent me Word she would come and dine with me, and therefore desired to have no other Company. I took Care accordingly, and was not a little pleased to see her enter the Room with a decent and Matron-like Behaviour, which I thought very much became her. I saw she had a great deal to say to me, and easily discovered in her Eyes, and the Air of her Countenance, that she had abundance of Satisfaction in her Heart, which she longed to communicate. However, I was resolved to let her break into her Discourse her own Way, and reduced her to a Thousand little Devices and Intimations to bring me to the Mention of her Husband. But Finding I was resolved not to name him, she began of her own Accord; My Husband (said she) gives his humble Service to you: To which I only answered, I hope he is well; and without waiting for a Reply, fell into other Subjects. She at last was out of all Patience, and said, (with a Smile and Manner that I thought had more Beauty and Spirit than I had ever observed before in her) I did not think, Brother, you had been so ill-natured. You have seen ever since I came in, that I had a Mind to talk of my Husband, and you won't be so kind as to give me an Occasion. I did not know (said I) but it might be a disagreeable Subject to you. You do not take me for so old-fashioned a Fellow as to think of entertaining a young Lady with the Discourse of her Husband. I know, nothing is more acceptable than to speak of one who is to be so; but to speak of one who is so! Indeed, *Jenny*, I am a better bred Man than you think me. She showed a little Dislike at my Raillery; and by her bridling up, I perceived she expected to be treated hereafter not as *Jenny Distaff*, but Mrs. *Tranquillus*. I was very well pleased with this Change in her Humour; and upon talking with her on several Subjects, I could not but fancy, that I saw a great deal of her Husband's Way and Manner in her Remarks, her Phrases, the Tone of her Voice, and the very Air of her Countenance. This gave me an unspeakable Satisfaction, not so much because I had found her an Husband, from whom she could learn many Things that were laudable, but also because I looked upon her Imitation of him as an infallible Sign that she intirely loved him. This is an Observation that I never knew fail, though I do not remember that any other has made it. The natural Shiness of her Sex hindered her from telling me the greatness of her own Passion; but I easily collected it, from the Representation she gave me of his. I have every Thing, says she, in *Tranquillus* that I can wish for; and enjoy in him (what indeed you have told me were to be met with in a good Husband) the Fondness of a Lover, the Tenderness of a Parent, and the Intimacy of a Friend. It transported me to see her Eyes swimming in Tears of Affection when she spoke: And is there not, Dear Sister, said I, more Pleasure in the Possession of such a Man, than in all the little Impertinencies of Balls, Assemblies, and Equipage, which it cost me so much Pains to make you contemn? She answered, smiling, *Tranquillus* has made me a sincere Convert in a few Weeks, tho' I am afraid you could not have done it in your whole Life. To tell you truly, I have only one Fear hanging upon me, which is apt to give me Trouble in the Midst of all my Satisfactions: I am afraid, you must know, that I shall not always make the same amiable Appearance in his Eye that I do at present. You know, Brother *Bickerstaff*, that you have the Reputation of a Conjurer; and if you have any one Secret in your Art to make your Sister always beautiful, I should be happier than if I were Mistress of all the Worlds you have shown me in a Starry Night--- *Jenny* (said I) without having Recourse to Magick, I shall give you one plain Rule, that will not fail of making you always amiable to a Man who has so great a Passion for you, and is of so equal and reasonable a Temper as *Tranquillus*. Endeavour to please, and you must please; be always in the same Disposition as you are when you ask for this Secret, and, you may take my Word, you will never want it. An inviolable Fidelity, good Humour, and Complacency of Temper, out-live all the Charms of a fine Face, and make the Decays of it invisible.

We discoursed very long upon this Head, which was equally agreeable to us both; for I must confess, (as I tenderly love her) I take as much Pleasure in giving her Instructions for her Welfare, as she her self does in receiving them. I proceeded therefore to inculcate these Sentiments, by relating a very particular Passage that happened within my own Knowledge.

There were several of us making merry at a Friend's House in a Country Village, when the Sexton of the Parish-Church entered the Room in a Sort of Surprize, and told us, That as he was digging a Grave in the Chancel, a little Blow of his Pickax opened a decayed Coffin, in which there were several written Papers. Our Curiosity was immediately raised, so that we went to the Place where the Sexton had been at work, and found a great Concourse of People about the Grave. Among the rest, there was an old Woman, who told us, the Person buried there was a Lady, whom I do not think fit to mention, tho' there is nothing in the Story but what tends very much to her Honour. This Lady lived several Years an Exemplary Pattern of Conjugal Love, and dying soon after her Husband, who every Way answered her Character in Virtue and Affection, made it her Death-Bed Request, That all the Letters which she had received from him, both before and after her Marriage, should be buried in the Coffin with her. These I found upon Examination were the Papers before us. Several of them

had

had ſuffered ſo much by Time, that I could only pick out a few Words; as, My Soul! Lillies! Roſes! Deareſt Angel! and the like. One of 'em (which was legible throughout) ran thus:

MADAM,

"IF you would know the Greatneſs of my Love, "conſider that of your own Beauty. That "Blooming Countenance, that Snowy Boſom, "that Graceful Perſon, return every Moment to "my Imagination: The Brightneſs of your Eyes "have hindered me from cloſing mine ſince I laſt "ſaw you. You may ſtill add to your Beauties by "a Smile. A Frown will make me the moſt wretched "of Men, as I am the moſt paſſionate of Lovers.

It filled the whole Company with a deep Melancholy, to compare the Deſcription of the Letter with the Perſon that occaſioned it, who was now reduced to a few crumbling Bones, and a little mouldring Heap of Earth. With much ado I deciphered another Letter, which begun with, *My dear, dear Wife.* This gave me a Curioſity to ſee how the Style of one written in Marriage differed from one written in Courtſhip. To my Surprize, I found the Fondneſs rather augmented than leſſened, tho' the Panegyrick turned upon a different Accompliſhment. The Words were as follow:

"BEfore this ſhort Abſence from you, I did not "know that I loved you ſo much as I really "do; tho' at the ſame Time, I thought I loved "you as much as poſſible. I am under great Ap"prehenſions, leſt you ſhould have any Uneaſineſs "whilſt I am defrauded of my Share in it, and "can't think of taſting any Pleaſures that you "don't partake with me. Pray, my Dear, be "careful of your Health, if for no other Reaſon, be"cauſe you know I could not outlive you. It is na"tural in Abſence to make Profeſſions of an invio"lable Conſtancy; but towards ſo much Merit, it is "ſcarce a Virtue, eſpecially when it is but a bare "Return to that of which you have given me "ſuch continued Proofs ever ſince our firſt Ac"quaintance.

I am, *&c.*

It happened that the Daughter of theſe Two excellent Perſons was by when I was reading this Letter. At the Sight of the Coffin, in which was the Body of her Mother, near that of her Father, ſhe melted into a Flood of Tears. As I had heard a great Character of her Virtue, and obſerved in her this Inſtance of Filial Piety, I could not reſiſt my natural Inclination of giving Advice to young People, and therefore addreſſed my ſelf to her: Young Lady (ſaid I) you ſee how ſhort is the Poſſeſſion of that Beauty in which Nature has been ſo liberal to you. You find the melancholy Sight before you, is a Contradiction to the Firſt Letter that you heard read on that Subject; whereas you may obſerve, the Second Letter, which celebrates your Mother's Conſtancy, is it ſelf, being found in this Place, an Argument of it. But, Madam, I ought to caution you, not to think the Bodies that lie before you your Father and your Mother. Know their Conſtancy is rewarded by a nobler Union than by this mingling of their Aſhes, in a State where there is no Danger or Poſſibility of a Second Separation.

Whereas I am informed, That there is a ſpurious and very incorrect Edition of theſe Papers printed in a ſmall Volume; Theſe are to give Notice, That there is in the Preſs, and will ſpeedily be publiſhed, a very neat Edition, fitted for the Pocket, on extraordinary good Paper, a new Brevier *Letter, like the* Elzevir *Editions, and adorned with ſeveral Cuts by the beſt Artiſts. To which is added, a Preface, Index, and many Notes, for the better Explanation of theſe Lucubrations. By the Author. Who has reviſed, amended, and made many Additions to the Whole.*

N. B. Notice ſhall be given in this Paper, when I conclude my Firſt Volume.

Advertiſements.

WHereas there were lately Advertiſements in the Publick Prints, of a Globular New Light that was to be put up at St. James's Coffee-houſe, to be ſeen there for Approbation, which hath ſince been perform'd to the general Satisfaction of thoſe that have ſeen the ſame; the Perſon who hath the Patent for the ſaid Light living in Ireland, is willing upon reaſonable Terms to diſpoſe of his Intereſt therein relating to this Kingdom; and any Perſon that hath a Mind to treat about the ſame, may hear of him, and ſee the ſaid Patent, at the Patent-Office in Pauſgrave-Head Court near Temple-Bar.

SIR William Read, Her Majeſty's Oculiſt in Durham-Yard in the Strand, London, by his long Practice, and great Experience, has lately found out a Medicine that clarifies the Eyes from Suffuſions, which infallibly prevents Cataracts in the Beginning, and preſerves the Sight in Old or Young. He likewiſe couches Cataracts without Pain, or much Confinement; as will be atteſted by many Perſons of Quality and others that have found the good Effect thereof. He alſo cures Hair-Lips, or Wry Necks, tho' never ſo deformed; or contracted Limbs; and has lately taken ſeveral Weeks of a great Bignaſs; particularly one lately from a Gentlewoman that weigh'd 26 Pounds, without any Effuſion of Blood, after the Application of his Styptick Water, which all People may be furniſh'd with at his Houſe, with the Medicines for the Eyes above-mention'd.

WHereas there is lately publiſhed a neat and beautiful Edition of Biſhop Beveridge of Publick Prayer, and frequent Communion, deſigned to revive primitive Piety; and whereas ſeveral of the Clergy and Laity have ſubſcribed to that excellent Book, which is now ſold for 1 s. in Sheets, and 1 s. 2 d. bound; this is to deſire other pious Perſons to encourage and diſperſe them throughout the Kingdom; which it is not doubted but they will readily do, when conſidered, a greater Good cannot be done at a leſs Expence. Thoſe that take a Hundred ſhall have Ten gratis; and are hereby deſired to ſend in their Names and Numbers ſpeedily, to R. Smith at his Warehouſe in Exeter Exchange in the Strand, the Books being ready to deliver. At which Place alſo may be had, the ſaid Biſhop's Engliſh Works in Nine Volumes, Price 2 l. 2 s. 6 d. and ready Money for any Library or Parcel of Books.

This Day is publiſh'd,

*** The Britiſh Michael: An Epiſtolary Poem to a Friend in the Country. By Richard Butler, A. M. Printed by John Matthews; and ſold by William Lewis at the Dolphin next Tom's Coffee-houſe in Ruſſel-ſtreet Covent-Garden, and J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall.

SIr Theodore Maynern's Opiate for the Teeth; makes them clean and white as Ivory, tho' never ſo black and rotten, faſtens and preſerves them from the Tooth-Ach, being an excellent Thing for preventing and killing the Scurvy; the Quantity of a large Pen rubbed on the Teeth with your Finger every Morning faſting, waſhed off with clean Water, until you have uſed one of the largeſt Boxes, which will be ſufficient, unleſs greatly troubled with the Scurvy; and then may uſe more as Occaſion requires. Price of the largeſt Boxes 2 s. 6 d. the leſſer 1 s. 3 d. ſold at Mr. Garret's under the Royal Exchange; at John's Coffee-houſe in Swithin's-Alley near the Royal Exchange; at the Unicorn, a Toyſhop in Cheapſide near Wood-ſtreet; at Mrs. Lucas's, a Toyſhop at the Plough in the New Exchange in the Strand; at the Bell at the Weſt End of St. Pauls; at the Comb under St. Dunſtan's Church, Fleet-ſtreet; at Will's Coffee-houſe in Scotland-yard-Gate; and at Mrs. Brecknock's, Milliner at the upper End of St. James's-ſtreet Piccadilly.

*** The famous Medicine for curing the Cholick, that has for ſome Time been ſold by Mr. Rogers, Bookſeller in Fleet-ſtreet, at 2 s. and 6 d. the Paper, has lately cur'd a Gentlewoman near Tunbridge of above 70 Years old, who had been afflicted with that Diſtemper at Times for above 40 Years, and for above half a Year laſt paſt had it without any Intermiſſion, as appears by a Letter from a Friend of the Gentlewoman's ſent to Mr. Rogers, dated July 9. 1709. which is to be ſeen at his Shop by any one that deſires it.

THE Famous POWDER for the STONE, GRAVEL, and STRANGURY, that has perform'd ſo many remarkable Cures in thoſe Caſes, of which there are continued Inſtances. Certificates whereof, together with the Names and Places of Abode of many that have been reliev'd by it, too numerous to be inſerted here, are to be ſeen at Mr. Rogers's, Bookſeller in Fleet-ſtreet. There are likewiſe ſeveral large Stones that it has brought away from divers Perſons, to be ſeen at Mr. Aylmer's, Bookſeller in Cornhill: At both which Places only it is to be ſold, for 5 s. the Paper, which contains 3 Doſes, with Directions. The Perſon who prepares it, is to be ſpoken with every Tueſday and Thurſday, between 11 and 12, at Mr. Rogers's Shop above-mention'd.

*** The Moſt Noble Volatile Smelling-Bottle in the World; which ſmell'd to, Momentarily fetches the moſt diſmal Fainting, or Swooning Fits, and in a Minute removes Fluſhings, Vapours, Dulneſs, Head-Ach, Megrims, &c. It takes off all Heavy Sleepineſs, retards Swoonings, keeps up the Spirits to a Miracle; and by its Uſe admits of no Fainrings, but invigorates and enlivens the whole Man, recreates and makes chearful although never ſo ſad, and in a Moment raiſes all the ſenſitive Faculties. It's alſo to be taken inwardly by Drops, which effectually takes off and eradicates the very Cauſe; for it potently relieves, comforts, and ſtrengthens the Brain, creates and corroborates a Stomach, removes Sickneſs from it, helps Digeſtion, cleanſes the Blood; and in a Word, is the greateſt Cephalick, Stomatick, Hepatick, and powerful Aromatick poſſible; therefore is extream neceſſary for all Gentlemen, Ladies, &c. always to be carried in their Pockets. Is only ſold at Mr. King's, Picture-ſhop, in the Poultry, and at Mr. Overton's, at the Golden Buck, Picture-ſhop, againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet, at 2 s. and 6. d. each with printed Directions.